

Date Mailed June 5, 2003
-----------------------------

BEFORE THE  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Notification by Mt. Vernon Telephone Company That  
it Intends to Increase Telephone Rates

3970-TR-105

**NOTICE OF INVESTIGATION**

**THIS IS AN INVESTIGATION** opened in response to the notification received on May 22, 2003, from Mt. Vernon Telephone Company (Mt. Vernon, or applicant), that it intends to increase rates for local exchange telephone service at its Mt. Vernon, New Glarus, and Verona exchanges in Dane and Green counties.

A rate increase is proposed for local and national directory assistance, for additional directory listings, and for nonlisted and nonpublished number service. Some of the proposed increases are greater than 30 percent; however, they are equal to or less than rates common in the industry. Exemptions were granted by the Commission on May 2, 2003, in accordance with Wis. Stat. § 196.215(2g)(b) so that Mt. Vernon may propose increases that exceed 30 percent. A copy of the applicant's notification is available on the PSC's website at:  
*[http://psc.wi.gov/telecom/cases/rec\\_apps/recentap.htm](http://psc.wi.gov/telecom/cases/rec_apps/recentap.htm)*.

Mt. Vernon mailed notice of this proposal to its customers on May 22, 2003. Under Wis. Stat. § 196.215(3)(a), the proposed rates will become effective July 22, 2003, as specified in the notice. Customers have the opportunity to petition the Commission for an investigation of the utility's rate increase.

**NOTICE IS GIVEN** that the Commission may investigate this matter under Wis. Stat. § 196.215(3)(a). If, within 60 days of the mailing of the utility's notice to customers, the Commission receives a petition from at least 500 customers requesting that the Commission determine rates, further investigation will be necessary. The utility's proposed increases may still go into effect; however, the rates will then be subject to refund.

The Commission considers it necessary, in order to carry out its duties, to investigate all books, accounts, practices, and activities of the applicant. The expenses incurred or to be incurred by the Commission which are reasonably attributable to such an investigation will be assessed against and collected from the applicant in accordance with the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 196.397 and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 5.

The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of programs, services, or employment. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations to

Docket 3970-TR-105

participate in this matter or who needs to obtain this document in a different format should contact the docket coordinator listed below.

Questions regarding this matter may be directed to docket coordinator Tom Gross at (608) 267-2337.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, \_\_\_\_\_

By the Commission:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lynda L. Dorr  
Secretary to the Commission

LLD:TAG:clf\g:\notice\pending\3970-TR-105 Notice.doc